

Amendments to the Drawings

The attached single drawing sheet includes changes to Figure 9. This drawing sheet replaces the original drawing sheet that included Figure 9.

In Figure 9, the reference number "326d" has been added along with its corresponding lead line.

Attachment: 1 Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

Claims 1-68 are rejected. Claims 1-68 remain pending. Applicants respectfully request further examination and reconsideration in view of the remarks set forth below. Applicants believe that the amendments herein to the patent application do not add new matter to it.

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejections

Claims 39-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Bick, U.S. Patent No. 6,924,789 (hereinafter Bick). However, based on the Claim 43 argument included on page 3 of the present Office Action, Applicants understand Claims 39-43 to be rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Bick.

CLAIMS 39-43

Applicants respectfully assert that Bick does not teach subject matter recited in amended independent Claim 39. For instance, amended Claim 39 recites in part (emphasis added):

a capacitive sensor that is coupled to said keymat and said keypad structure, wherein said capacitive sensor integrated within said keymat.

Applicants respectfully assert that Bick fails to teach the capacitive sensor integrated within the keymat as recited in amended Claim 39. Instead, Applicants respectfully assert that Bick teaches a capacitive sensor 19 that is positioned below a keymat 17 (see Figs. 3 and 4; col. 2, lines 51-53). Since Bick fails to teach at least one element recited in amended Claim 39, Applicants respectfully contend that Bick cannot anticipate amended Claim 39. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claim 39 is allowable over Bick.

Furthermore, since Claims 40-43 depend from amended independent Claim 39, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 40-43 derive patentability at least therefrom.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections

Claims 1-4, 13-15, 21, 25, 26, 44-46, 55-59, 67 and 68 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bick in view of Seely et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,188,391 (hereinafter Seely). Claims 5-12, 16-20, 22-24, 47-54 and 60-66 are rejected

under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bick and Seely as applied to Claims 1, 2, 14, 15, 39, 44, 45 and 58, and further in view of Kleinhans et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,664,489 (hereinafter Kleinhans). Claims 27-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bick in view of Seely and Kleinhans.

CLAIMS 1-4 and 13

Applicants respectfully assert that Bick and Seely, alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest subject matter recited within amended independent Claim 1. For instance, amended Claim 1 recites in part (emphasis added):

a substantially transparent single sheet capacitive sensor, said substantially transparent single sheet capacitive sensor configured to be disposed within said keypad assembly without requiring the formation of key post holes therethrough, said substantially transparent single sheet capacitive sensor is coupled to a keymat and a keypad structure, said substantially transparent single sheet capacitive sensor integrated within said keymat;

Applicants respectfully contend that Bick and Seely, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the substantially transparent single sheet capacitive sensor integrated within the keymat as recited in amended Claim 1. Since Bick and Seely, alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest at least one element recited in amended Claim 1, Applicants respectfully contend that amended Claim 1 is not rendered obvious by Bick and Seely. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claim 1 is allowable over Bick and Seely.

Also, since Claims 2-4 and 13 depend from amended independent Claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit Claims 2-4 and 13 derive patentability at least therefrom.

CLAIMS 14, 15, 21, 25 and 26

Applicants respectfully contend that Bick and Seely, alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest subject matter recited within amended independent Claim 14. For instance, amended Claim 14 recites in part (emphasis added):

wherein said capacitive sensing device is coupled to a keymat and a keypad structure, said capacitive sensing device integrated within said keymat.

Applicants respectfully contend that Bick and Seely, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the capacitive sensing device integrated within the keymat as recited in amended Claim 14. Since Bick and Seely, alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest at least one element recited in amended Claim 14, Applicants respectfully contend that amended Claim 14 is not rendered obvious by Bick and Seely. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claim 14 is allowable over Bick and Seely.

Additionally, since Claims 15, 21, 25 and 26 depend from amended independent Claim 14, Applicants respectfully submit Claims 15, 21, 25 and 26 derive patentability at least therefrom.

CLAIMS 44-46 and 55-57

Applicants respectfully assert that Bick and Seely, alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest subject matter recited within amended independent Claim 39. For instance, amended Claim 39 recites in part (emphasis added):

a capacitive sensor that is coupled to said keymat and said keypad structure, wherein said capacitive sensor integrated within said keymat.

Applicants respectfully contend that Bick and Seely, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the capacitive sensor integrated within the keymat as recited in amended Claim 39. Since Bick and Seely, alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest at least one element recited in amended Claim 39, Applicants respectfully contend that amended Claim 39 is not rendered obvious by Bick and Seely. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claim 39 is allowable over Bick and Seely.

Moreover, since Claims 44-46 and 55-57 depend from amended independent Claim 39, Applicants respectfully submit Claims 44-46 and 55-57 derive patentability at least therefrom.

CLAIMS 58, 59, 67 and 68

Applicants respectfully assert that Bick and Seely, alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest subject matter recited within amended independent Claim 58. For instance, amended Claim 58 recites in part (emphasis added):

wherein said capacitive sensing device is coupled to a keymat and a keypad structure, said capacitive sensing device integrated within said keymat.

Applicants respectfully contend that Bick and Seely, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the capacitive sensor integrated within the keymat as recited in amended Claim 58. Since Bick and Seely, alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest at least one element recited in amended Claim 58, Applicants respectfully contend that amended Claim 58 is not rendered obvious by Bick and Seely. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claim 58 is allowable over Bick and Seely.

Furthermore, since Claims 59, 67 and 68 depend from amended independent Claim 58, Applicants respectfully submit Claims 59, 67 and 68 derive patentability at least therefrom.

CLAIMS 5-12

Applicants respectfully assert that Bick, Seely and Kleinhans, alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest subject matter recited within amended independent Claim 1. For instance, amended Claim 1 recites in part (emphasis added):

a substantially transparent single sheet capacitive sensor, said substantially transparent single sheet capacitive sensor configured to be disposed within said keypad assembly without requiring the formation of key post holes therethrough, said substantially transparent single sheet capacitive sensor is coupled to a keymat and a keypad structure, said substantially transparent single sheet capacitive sensor integrated within said keymat;

Applicants respectfully contend that Bick, Seely and Kleinhans, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the substantially transparent single sheet capacitive sensor integrated within the keymat as recited in amended Claim 1. Since Bick, Seely and Kleinhans, alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest at least one element recited in amended Claim 1, Applicants respectfully contend that amended Claim 1 is not rendered obvious by Bick, Seely and Kleinhans. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claim 1 is allowable over Bick, Seely and Kleinhans.

Additionally, since Claims 5-12 depend from amended independent Claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit Claims 5-12 derive patentability at least therefrom.

CLAIMS 16-20 and 22-24

Applicants respectfully contend that Bick, Seely and Kleinhans, alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest subject matter recited within amended independent Claim 14. For instance, amended Claim 14 recites in part (emphasis added):

wherein said capacitive sensing device is coupled to a keymat and a keypad structure, said capacitive sensing device integrated within said keymat.

Applicants respectfully contend that Bick, Seely and Kleinhans, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the capacitive sensing device integrated within the keymat as recited in amended Claim 14. Since Bick, Seely and Kleinhans, alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest at least one element recited in amended Claim 14, Applicants respectfully contend that amended Claim 14 is not rendered obvious by Bick, Seely and Kleinhans. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claim 14 is allowable over Bick, Seely and Kleinhans.

Furthermore, since Claims 16-20 and 22-24 depend from amended independent Claim 14, Applicants respectfully submit Claims 16-20 and 22-24 derive patentability at least therefrom.

CLAIMS 47-54

Applicants respectfully assert that Bick, Seely and Kleinhans, alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest subject matter recited within amended independent Claim 39. For instance, amended Claim 39 recites in part (emphasis added):

a capacitive sensor that is coupled to said keymat and said keypad structure, wherein said capacitive sensor integrated within said keymat.

Applicants respectfully contend that Bick, Seely and Kleinhans, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the capacitive sensor integrated within the keymat as recited in amended Claim 39. Since Bick, Seely and Kleinhans, alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest at least one element recited in amended Claim 39, Applicants respectfully contend that amended Claim 39 is not rendered obvious by Bick, Seely and Kleinhans. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claim 39 is allowable over Bick, Seely and Kleinhans.

Moreover, since Claims 47-54 depend from amended independent Claim 39, Applicants respectfully submit Claims 47-54 derive patentability at least therefrom.

CLAIMS 60-66

Applicants respectfully assert that Bick, Seely and Kleinhans, alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest subject matter recited within amended independent Claim 58. For instance, amended Claim 58 recites in part (emphasis added):

wherein said capacitive sensing device is coupled to a keymat and a keypad structure, said capacitive sensing device integrated within said keymat.

Applicants respectfully contend that Bick, Seely and Kleinhans, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the capacitive sensor integrated within the keymat as recited in amended Claim 58. Since Bick, Seely and Kleinhans, alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest at least one element recited in amended Claim 58, Applicants respectfully contend that amended Claim 58 is not rendered obvious by Bick, Seely and Kleinhans. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claim 58 is allowable over Bick, Seely and Kleinhans.

Furthermore, since Claims 60-66 depend from amended independent Claim 58, Applicants respectfully submit Claims 60-66 derive patentability at least therefrom.

CLAIMS 27-38

Applicants respectfully assert that Bick, Seely and Kleinhans, alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest subject matter recited within amended independent Claim 27. For instance, amended Claim 27 recites in part (emphasis added):

wherein said capacitive sensing device is coupled to a keymat and a keypad structure, said capacitive sensing device integrated within said keymat.

Applicants respectfully contend that Bick, Seely and Kleinhans, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the capacitive sensor integrated within the keymat as recited in amended Claim 27. Since Bick, Seely and Kleinhans, alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest at least one element recited in amended Claim 27, Applicants respectfully contend that amended Claim 27 is not rendered obvious by Bick, Seely and Kleinhans. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claim 27 is allowable over Bick, Seely and Kleinhans.

Furthermore, since Claims 28-38 depend from amended independent Claim 27, Applicants respectfully submit Claims 28-38 derive patentability at least therefrom.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above listed remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of rejected Claims 1-68.

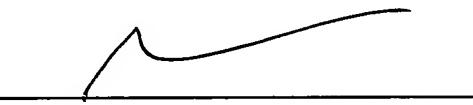
The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present application.

Please charge any required fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account Number: 23-0085.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 1/16/06


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